

Nice list
Students raise money for food shelf
B4



Ready to race
Mushers gear up for season
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Doubling donations

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

A donation of up to \$2 million in matching funds makes today the day to donate to The Salvation Army.

According to Beverly Mayfield, envoy at the local Salvation Army, all donations made today to the International Falls organization and others across Minnesota and North Dakota will be doubled.

“No matter how you donate – at a kettle, online, by phone or in person – every dollar you give will be matched,” Mayfield said. “This matching opportunity

is both amazing and historic...It's a blessing.”

The match is made possible by a small group of anonymous donors who pooled together \$2 million worth of matching funds to get The Salvation Army's Christmas campaign back on track in Minnesota and North Dakota. Kettle donations are down in both states.

Mayfield added the effort is the largest two-day matching gift in Salvation Army history.

According to salvationarmyusa.org, the organization's Red Kettle Campaign, which is

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County board discusses Littlefork Medical Center

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The closure of the Littlefork Medical Center would result in an estimated loss of \$6.6 million in sales within Koochiching County.

The estimate was part of a report heard by the Koochiching County Board Tuesday. The board and Littlefork officials are considering ways to stabilize LMC's financial status.

The report was developed by the University of Minnesota

Extension on the economic impact the closure of the Littlefork Medical Center would have on the county.

Some commissioners said the loss of sales, jobs, and services, should LMC close, would have a great impact on the county and its residents.

John Bennett from UOM Extension explained the three levels of impact the study measured. The direct impact is the LMC's

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STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

Jenny Herman, left, Small Business Development Center consultant, delivers her quarterly report to the Koochiching Economic Development Authority Wednesday.

SBDC works with 20 new clients in 2013

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority Wednesday heard a quarterly update from the Small Business Development Center on its activity with local businesses.

Jenny Herman, business consultant for the SBDC, said she worked with 74 different clients in 2013, of which 20 were new clients, and 45 she works with on a repeat basis. These clients were businesses or individuals

looking to start a business, she said.

“I look at the repeat customers as getting the service they need, and that is valuable, so they continue to come back,” Herman said.

Of her 20 new clients, Herman said they're mostly concentrated in International Falls, but she also meets with clients in Littlefork, Big Falls, Ranier, and some of the resort owners as well.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Rose Rooker helps her granddaughter, Allison Wilson, wrap gifts at The Salvation Army Wednesday. The pair were two of several volunteers who helped wrap angel tree gifts that were distributed to local children Thursday.

Ready...set...wrap!

Volunteers gathered at The Salvation Army this week to wrap gifts purchased by community members for the Angel Tree. Angel trees were displayed at Kmart and Menards decorated with wish lists created by Koochiching County children whose families struggle to make ends meet during the holiday season. The Salvation Army officials said 192 tags were hung on trees and this year, the organization had to fulfill more lists than in previous years.



The Salvation Army employee Missy Trickle adds to a sea of gifts ready to be distributed to Borderland children.

Kathy Elton puts the finishing touches on a wrapped gift.



Mindy Wilson measures to see if there will be enough paper to wrap a gift.

